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Homemaker News
EXCLUSIVE TO STATE EXTENSION EDITORS
U. S. D. A. PRESS SERVICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

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No. 259 October 1, 1938.

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MIMEOGRAPHED MATERIAL
OCT 26 1938
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CARE OF FURS AND OF FUR-TRIMMED GARMENTS

The greatest detriments to fur garments or fur trimming are friction, moths, heat, and light, according to Frank G. Ashbrook, fur specialist of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"The wear and continued good appearance of fur on a coat or of a fur coat," he says, "depend on the care that it gets. Any heat, including sunshine, draws the oils out of the leather pelt of the fur and makes it hard and dry. Light actually fades dark furs and makes white furs yellow. A fur garment should be cleaned by an expert with equipment for tumbling it in a drum with specially treated sawdust until it is clean. If the lining is very soiled he takes it out and dry-cleans it separately.

"Moths fly the year round in our modern heated houses. As they seem particularly fond of fur, garments made of it or trimmed with it require constant watching, even in winter when they are in daily use. Occasional brushing and airing will help to dislodge any moth eggs that might be laid in the fur.

"If a fur coat or the fur on a coat gets wet, it should be gently wiped with a Turkish towel along the flow of the fur. Hold it by the hem and shake it well. Hang on a padded hanger in a doorway or somewhere else that has a good circulation of air. Never hang it near a radiator or other heat, or in a very hot room.

"Fur coats sometimes show worn, bare spots on one side where the wearer has always carried a purse. The left sleeve may have such a spot if the

wearer drives a car and rests the left arm on the car door. Rubbing on the steering wheel may wear the fur cuffs badly, just as a hat brim that is too long in the back will wear off the fur of a beautiful collar. One should never sit down in a fur coat without unbuttoning it to ease the strain on buttons and seams and shrugging the shoulders slightly to lift it a little. This prevents development of baggy places.

"Fur coats, scarfs and trimming may be combed very gently with the flow of the hair to prevent matting. This means in the direction the hairs point.

"When a fur coat is made up as cheaply as possible, often from inferior grades of fur, it may not be properly reinforced with thin cloth tacked or cemented on the back to relieve strain on the leather. This is always done with the more expensive furs. So we should give extra care to a low-priced coat that is made of any of the less durable furs."

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